

Bipartisan Bill Contains Key Provisions of the Hall-Introduced Freedom from Foreign-Based Manipulation in American Elections Act

Washington, DC – In the wake of the Supreme Court's recent decision to allow unlimited spending by corporations in federal election campaigns, U.S. Rep. John Hall (D-NY) announced his support today for new legislation that would overhaul the nation's campaign finance laws. The bipartisan DISCLOSE Act, introduced by Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), includes key provisions based on Hall's Freedom from Foreign-Based Manipulation in American Elections Act (H.R. 4517).

"I am pleased that Congressman Van Hollen's bill includes provisions I introduced earlier to keep foreign-controlled corporations out of our elections. I appreciate Congressman Van Hollen's willingness to include my proposals and I look forward to working with him to pass this critical bipartisan bill," Hall said.

Hall introduced the legislation in response to the Supreme Court's decision to throw out a century's worth of law and allow domestic and even foreign corporations to be involved in political campaigns. The Hall bill would block campaign advertising by any corporation that has more than five percent foreign shareholders, has foreign nationals on its board of directors, or employs a foreign national as a senior executive. Van Hollen's legislation contains similar provisions.

"Congressman Hall has been a strong fighter for campaign finance reform and his work to prevent foreign companies from influencing America's elections was vital as we drafted the bipartisan DISCLOSE Act. I want to thank him for his efforts on this issue," Van Hollen said. "Powerful special interests should not be able to drown out the voices of hard working Americans. It is critical to let the sun shine in on political expenditures and ensure that voters are able to follow the money and make informed decisions," he added.

"Foreign companies do not equal American citizens when it comes to deciding U.S. elections," Hall said. "If we do not act, foreign wealth will be turned into a weapon against our democracy. This is a grave threat to our freedom - one that must be taken seriously and stopped immediately," he said.

The DISCLOSE Act has bipartisan support from Rep. Mike Castle (R-DE). U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (NY) has introduced similar legislation in the Senate. The bill is also supported by the White House.